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3d. That the Janitor be requested to place the microscopes of the Section on the table at every meeting.

4th. That arrangements be made with the new Medical Journal to publish a synopsis of the proceedings, and, if possible, to announce the subject for discussion before the meetings.

The following paper was ordered to be published :

Is Atropia an antidote to Hydrocyanic Acid ?

BY DR. W. W. KEEN.

Having been recently called upon, as a member of a committee of the Pathological Society, to investigate the blood of Geo. S. Twitchell, Jr., the murderer (who poisoned himself by prussic acid), my attention was called to the lately asserted antidotal powers of atropia, and I made a number of experiments on the subject, the result of which I now report to the Department.

In the Glasgow Med. Jour., Nov., 1868, p. 70 et seq., will be found an extended analysis of Preyer's recent work on prussic acid (Die Blausaüre, Bonn, 1868), which I must quote as authority, as I had not access to the original work. The questions as to action of the poison on the spectrum analysis of the blood, on its coagulation, on the heart, &c., are foreign to my present purpose, and will be found discussed both in the paper just alluded to and in our report to the Pathological Society. (Amer. Jour. Med. Sci. vol. 58, p. 432.)

Preyer's conclusions, from numerous experiments, are that HCy kills by suffocation induced by three means:

1°, it stimulates or tetanizes the pulmonary branches of the vagus, so that the respiration ceases.

2°, it stimulates or tetanizes the cardiac branches of the vagus (and also the sympathetic ganglia of the heart in some cases), and thus arrests the circulation.

3°, it acts on the respiratory nervous centre, so that the breathing on being re-established is retarded more and more, till death follows.

Atropia, he states, has precisely an antagonistic action, and therefore should be and is an antidote. That atropia does have such an action as he has asserted on the circulation, is the conclusion to which Drs. Mitchell, Morehouse and myself came in studying the antagonism of opium and belladonna, and published in the Amer. Jour. Med. Sci., July, 1865; but that it affects the respiration is contrary to our experiments at that time, and that it acts as an antidote to prussic acid my present experiments, so far as they go, certainly disprove.

Preyer states that if the 0·015 of a grain—*i. e.*, one millegramme—of sulphate of atropia be injected under the skin of a rabbit, a lethal dose of HCy may be given without producing death ; or if the HCy be first administered, that then the atropia will arrest its poisonous action if it is given quickly enough.

Exp. I. May 12, 1869. Injected 0·017 gr. of sulph. atropia under the skin of the back of a rabbit, followed in half a minute by 3 ♏ of officinal dilute hydrocyanic acid.

In 1½ minutes after the last injection he fell over convulsed; opisthotonos.
In 2½ minutes pupils began to contract.
In 5½ minutes respiration had ceased; heart still beating.
In 6½ minutes, dead.

On the post mortem examination, made immediately, the heart was found to present the slight rythmical twitching usually noticed in the right auricle after poisoning by HCy, but here observed in the walls of all the cavities save the right ventricle.

Exp. II. Injected as before under the skin of a rabbit gr. 0·010 atrop. sulph., followed in half a minute by 2 ♏ HCy.

In 2¼ minutes respiration arrested.

In 3¼ minutes re-established, 16 in the minute; spasms; cry; heart beating.
In 4¼ minutes, respiration ceased.
In 5¾ minutes, pupils contracting.
In 7¼ minutes, heart ceased; dead.
Heart twitching as in Exp. I.

Exp. III. Injected as before 0·015 gr. atrop. sulph., followed in half a minute by 2 minims HCy.
In ½ minute, respiration rapid.
In 1 minute, pupil contracting.
In 1¼ minute, opisthotonos very severe.
In 2 minutes, respiration 32, and labored.
In 3 minutes, respiration stopped.
In 5 minutes, dead.

Exp. IV. Injected the HCy first, 3 minims.
In 1½ minutes fell over in convulsions.
In 2 minutes gave 0·015 gr. atrop. sulph.
In 2½ minutes, gasping very slowly.
In 3½ minutes, dead.

Besides these, I also performed four other experiments, in which larger doses were used with the like result, as follows:

Exp. V. Injected gr. 0·2 atrop. sulph., followed in half a minute by 10 minims HCy. Death in 4¼ minutes.

Exp. VI. Injected gr. 0·2 atrop. sulph., and in half a minute 5 minims HCy. Death in 4 minutes.

Exp. VII. Injected gr. 0·1 atrop. sulph., followed in half a minute by 2 minims HCy. Death in 6½ minutes.

Exp. VIII. Injected 0·063 gr. atrop. sulph., followed in half a minute by 1 minim HCy. Death in 10 minutes.

That the rabbits did not die as the result of atropia poisoning, I take for granted, inasmuch as very many experiments on all sides prove them to be unaffected by belladonna in any form, as much as 2 grains of atropia not having produced death. Their peculiar insusceptibility to atropia therefore eliminates a difficulty often felt in similar experiments,—viz., to test which of the poisons killed. It may be objected, then, that as atropia does not act on the rabbit, it cannot be expected to act as an antidote here. Preyer, however, asserts that it does act as an antidote in the case of rabbits, and if proven here, it must *a fortiori* hold good in other animals who are more susceptible to its influence. But in order to test this question, I performed the following experiments on dogs:

Exp. IX. Injected gr. 1-10 atrop. sulph. under the skin of a small dog, followed in half a minute by 10 minims HCy. In 2 minutes he fell over with marked opisthotonos, slow and labored respiration, and was dead in 8½ minutes.

Exp. X. Injected 1-10 gr. atrop. sulph. under the skin of another dog of the same size, followed in half a minute by 7½ minims HCy. Fell over with opisthotonos, as in the former experiment, in 3½ minutes, and was dead in half an hour.

Exp. XI. Injected 1-10 gr. atrop. sulph. under the skin of a similar-sized dog, followed in half a minute by 5 minims HCy. Death with the same symptoms in half an hour.

Exp. XII. 2.31½ P.M. Injected under skin of back of moderate-sized dog 1-20 gr. atropiæ sulphatis. 2.37½. No effect appearing, injected 1-10 gr. atrop. sulph. 2.40. Pupils dilated. 2.41. Injected minims v acid. hydrocyan. dil. (U.S.P.) 2.45. Seems uneasy; licks his chaps constantly from the dryness of the mouth. 2.46. Can scarcely stand. 2.47. Fell down; howls; bladder emptied; breathing laborious; opisthotonos. 2.48. General convulsions. 2.50. Breathing rapid and laborious. 3.40. Died.

That the dogs did not die from the atropia is evident, especially by reference to Dr. Harley's experiments (On the old Vegetable Neurotics, pp. 198—202), where as much as one-fourth of a grain was given without producing more than slight poisonous action.

I do not regard my experiments as sufficiently extended to be conclusive, but as disproving a positive assertion they are of a certain importance.

On favorable report of the Committee, the following paper was ordered to be published:

Case of Hypospadias—Male Hermaphrodism.

By Prof. CHRISTOPHER JOHNSTON, M.D., Baltimore.

"It is with Hermaphrodisms," says Isidore Geof. St. Hilaire, "as with all other anomalies: as we approach them the marvellous disappears; but their scientific interest increases, and all particular facts, bound together by theory, explained by simple considerations, present themselves to the observer as the diverse but concordant consequences of a small number of principles which govern the whole domain of teratology.

"Thus it is, whether we examine the reproductive apparatus of a male hermaphrodite, or consider the totality of his physical constitution, or study him in a moral point of view, we reach the same conclusion, namely, an analogy more or less apparent with the conditions of femininity, but at bottom an essentially masculine organization as well as tastes and proclivities."

These reflections serve very appropriately to introduce the short history of a case of so-called male hermaphrodism, in which, at the age of nineteen years, the subject of it, having been previously looked upon as a girl, was suddenly transformed into a boy by the decision of experts.

The case is as follows: X. Y., aged nineteen years, is of medium height, fair complexion, blue eyes, brown hair, face feminine, voice puerile and beard sprouting rather thickly for his age and slight figure. His general appearance indicates health. It may be added that his gait and deportment are decidedly girlish, for he drops his garments when stripping for examination; and he assures us that he assumed the position of the *Venus accroupie* when, as in Father Tom's case, "*vesica sua simul erat rumpere.*"

He gives of himself the history we reproduce, and which is corroborated by his mother and brother.

At birth he was looked upon as a girl normally developed, wherefore the age of seven years saw him still in frocks. At this period of his life he was struck by a piece of falling timber upon the abdomen, and, his body undergoing investigation in consequence, a peculiarity in the conformation of his outer genital parts was observed, but its nature was not ascertained nor, of course, understood. As he was but slightly injured no connection was alleged between the accident and the abnormal development; and as no importance was attached to his "peculiarity," he was recommitted to frocks and the matter forgotten. He continued to be regarded as a girl, wore the attire of a female, and associated very intimately with girls of the period. As a child he had a remarkably fine voice, a boy's soprano, and was accustomed to sing at public concerts; but at the age of fourteen his voice suddenly changed in quality, became piping, and lost much of its original compass.

A few months ago—as he tells us—his beard began to grow, and this circumstance occasioned him great annoyance, by reason of the remark it excited. Failing in his attempts to suppress the growth of hair upon his face, and stung by the ill-natured remarks its presence evoked, he lopped off his long braids, assumed the habiliments of a man, and fled from his maternal roof. It would also appear that this conclusion was assisted by the opinion of a medical gentleman, to whom, suspecting his proper sex, he had had recourse in order to satisfy his doubts as to his sexual status.

Far from his home, chance now led him to our door, and upon his request we made a satisfactory examination.

His framework is that of a male. The mammæ are undeveloped, the thorax and limbs quite hairy, and the pubis and genitals unusually hirsute. A median fissure separated two apparent labia, and, as hair conceals all else, the impression is decidedly womanly; nor is that impression altogether effaced by drawing apart the labia, for the cleft extends deeply, seems to merge into a small vagina, above which a mentus urinarius lies under the arch of the pubis. But higher up a penis appears, one inch and three quarters in length, by three-fourths in diameter, surrounded by an imperforate glans uncovered by prepuce. A groove extends along the under surface of the penis, and runs back to within one inch of the anus, being about three inches in length. This groove, lined by mucous membrane, is the roof of the urethra, which deepens posteriorly, and is finally concealed by overhanging scrotal pouches. Traction upon these shows its termination in a deeply imbedded meatus, which lies about half an inch anteriorly to a blind fossa about the size of a crow quill in capacity and half an inch in depth. The meatus and cul de sac are comprised in an oval space about an inch in length, bounded laterally by an elevated ridge of mucous membrane, and posteriorly limited by a fourchette.

The prepuce, dividing on the under surface of the penis, is continuous with bands of mucous membrane, which simulate the labia minora of the female, and are lost upon the inner sides of the scrota. The proximate surfaces of the scrotal pouches have the character of mucous membrane, are red, vascular and moist, and are traceable into the urethra and vaginoid cul de sac.

A careful examination with the finger in the rectum and a catheter in the bladder, recognizes no trace of uterus, and the blind fossa which simulates a rudimentary vagina appears to be independent of all other parts but the mucous membrane which forms its walls. The indications of the existence of a prostate are uncertain.

A small oval glandular body occupies each inguinal canal, has the form of a testicle, but is softer to the touch. These bodies, lying just within the external abdominal ring, are the testicles, which have not descended beyond that opening.

The sexual feeling is as feebly developed as the external parts of generation —indeed it is somewhat doubtful if that feeling exist at all, as the statements of X. Y. on this point are vague and unsatisfactory. He asserts that erection of the penis sometimes takes place, accompanied with pain, but the organ follows an unnatural bent—downwards.

We have evidently presented to us in this case an instance of arrest of development dating from an early period of fœtal life. The cleft is the original sexual fissure; the corpora cavernosa have united above, leaving the shallow groove beneath; the glans is imperforate, and the rest of the spongy body is wanting; and the bladder and rectum are partitioned off from the great inferior or genito-urinary and intestinal cloaca, the fundus of which puts on the appearance of a little vagina. The sex of the individual is manifestly masculine; but X. Y. must be regarded as a very imperfectly sketched male, and as affected with hypospadias of a remarkably decided as well as interesting character.

September 5th.

Vice-Director, Wm. Pepper, M.D., in the Chair.

Eleven members present.

October 3d, 1870.

Director S. W. MITCHELL, M. D., in the Chair.

Thirteen members present.

The report of the Committee upon the *Myiarchus cinerascens* was presented, as follows:

The Committee to which was referred the specimen of *Myiarchus cinerascens* vel *Mexicanus*, with 'fungous growth of its feet,' forwarded for investigation from the Smithsonian Institution of Washington, report that, although the great changes which have taken place in the abnormal formation by drying render it impossible to determine with certainty its nature during the life of the bird, they have been able to recognize the following characteristics: Examined with a hand magnifying glass, the adventitious structure was found to be porous, and to present a cellular appearance closely resembling that of a section of mammalian lung which had been inflated and dried. A thin slice immersed in liquor potassa or glycerin and examined with a power of 200 diameters, was seen to be composed of bands of material resembling fibrous tissue, arranged so as to form alveoli, each about 1-150th of an inch in diameter with a wall of 1-600th of an inch in thickness. These alveoli frequently contained mycelial threads, apparently of some fungus of the Leptothrix type, and occasionally portions of *Acari*, resembling the *A. Scabæii*, with their ova and excrement. It seemed improbable that this pathological product was the result of the integument covering the legs and feet, and bearing even a fanciful analogy to the *Elephantiasis* of human beings; first, because a transverse section of one of the toes showed the black scaly skin apparently unaltered beneath the fungous growth, which was readily peeled off; second, because it covered the rather elongated claws of the bird with as thick and firm a coating as that found upon the adjacent portion of the toes supplied with its modified cuticle; and thirdly, from the absence of epithelial or other similar cells in the sections examined, even with a high power (1200 diam.) Any hypothesis of its being a malignant growth springing from the connective tissue beneath the integument was likewise deemed untenable, not only on account of the circumstances just enumerated, but also because the disease was so symmetrically developed upon both lower extremities; and your Committee was therefore, with some hesitation, led to assume that the growth was really of a fungous nature, and perhaps bore some slight resemblance to those comparatively rare affections of our race, *Favus* and *Tinea tonsurans* of the nails. The only fact which militated strongly against this view was that, on burning a small fragment of the abnormal structure in the flame of a spirit lamp, a decided animal odor was evolved, and a faint cloud of ammonic-nitrate appeared when the smoking particle was brought in contact with the vapor of nitric acid. Even this might be readily explained by the existence in the mass of the various animal excretions with which such a dense covering would probably be charged.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

(Signed) JOS. G. RICHARDSON,
Sept. 23d, 1870. HARRISON ALLEN.

On motion, the report was accepted, the Committee discharged, and the Corresponding Secretary directed to transmit the document to the Smithsonian Institution.

A communication was presented from Prof. Baird, of the Smithsonian Institution, accompanied by a specimen of finely pulverized material stated to have fallen in a dust shower over portions of Vermont; to examine which Drs. J. G. Hunt and William Corbit were appointed.

Sundry photographs, specimens of skin and some animal organisms, dredged from the harbor of Newport, R. I., received from Mr. Powell for distribution among the members, was presented.

November 7th, 1870.

Vice-Director, WM. PEPPER, M.D., in the Chair.

Nine members present.

Dr. J. G. Hunt presented the following report in regard to the dust shower, which was accepted, the Committee discharged, and the Corresponding Secretary requested to forward the same to the authorities at the Smithsonian Institution.

The Committee to whom the dust, sent by H. A. Cutting, and said to have fallen from the air in Vermont Feb. 12, 1870, was referred for examination, make the following report:

The dust effervesced under the action of an acid.

On microscopical examination we find as follows:

1st. Much granular amorphous matter.

2d. Many round or oval granules, perfectly transparent. These disappear when treated with nitric acid. It is probable that silica forms no part of their composition.

3d. Spores of fungi or gonidia of some lichen.

4th. Diatoms.

5th. Fragments of vegetable cells, too imperfect for identification.

6th. Cells of coniferous wood—the genus Pinus—having the peculiar deposit characteristic of these cells absent in spots.

7th. Other cells of coniferous wood with smaller markings than those of the pine; five dots in a row and two parallel rows in each cell, and the cells terminating transversely and not obliquely as in the pine.

8th. Many cells of an *Alga*, resembling red snow, or *Protococus nivalis*, or *Palmella cruenta*, or *Porphrydium*, as the unfortunate plant is now called. These cells were in the stage of binary subdivision, well known in that *Alga*.

We see no reason to doubt that this dust is the ashes of some burning forest, which has been sifting the higher regions of the atmosphere with its microscopical fingers, gathering in its transit some recognized organisms and many we could not identify. The distance it may have travelled we cannot measure, nor is it important.

To the action of the winds Linnæus ascribes the importation into Europe of the *Conyza cærulea* of Canada, which now infests the north of France.

Certain lichens from the mountains of Asia, taken up by whirlwinds, travel among the clouds and, imbibing watery vapor upon the journey, grow during their peregrinations, until they fall at vast distances from where they started. "This rain of plants sometimes forms on those places a layer five or six inches deep. Men feed upon them, and what they cannot consume is given to the cattle." We have been told by æronauts that they have seen thistle seeds floating above the clouds. If those heavier bodies have been carried vast distances, it is not improbable that this fine dust may have followed a devious and far distant path.

Your Committee would request Mr. Cutting to send to this Section a copy of his paper on Dust Storms, when completed.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

(Signed) DR. J. G. HUNT,
DR. WM. B. CORBIT.

Dr. Tyson inquired of Dr. Hunt whether the effervescence with acid did not indicate that the dust was composed of carbonates, to which question Dr. Hunt replied in the affirmative.

November 21st, 1870.

(Conversational Meeting.)

Director S. W. Mitchell, M. D., in the Chair.

Twelve members present.

Dr. Mitchell read an interesting account of a case of supposed Guinea worm in a patient from South Carolina, showing the worm itself, presumed to be allied to the *Dracunculus,* which he intended to present at the approaching business meeting, and make application for permission to publish the paper in the next number of the *American Journal of the Medical Sciences.*

In the course of the conversational discussion to which this gave rise, Dr. Mitchell stated that a similar case had occurred at the Wills' Hospital some years since.

Dr. Coates remarked that not very long ago a horse was on exhibition, and had been seen by many medical gentlemen, in which a worm was distinctly visible within the aqueous humor. He further inquired whether it was known what mode of travelling through the tissues was adopted by the ova in these cases.

Dr. Holt thought there was little doubt that they made their first entrance into the system in the water used for drinking.

Dr. Tyson considered that their mode of progress among the structures of the body might be somewhat analogous to the remarkable amœboid movements of the white blood corpuscles.

Dr. Mitchell mentioned in this connection a case where a piece of blunt-pointed iron wire was removed at the instep of a patient whose leg it had entered above the knee some time before.

Dr. Coates finally wished to know how the ovum of this parasite could have made its way through the patient's flesh, been swallowed in the water which she drank, or even existed at all in her neighborhood, when no other specimen of its kind had ever been known to occur in the State of South Carolina.

December 5th, 1870.

(Annual Meeting.)

Director S. W. Mitchell, M. D., in the Chair.

Fourteen members present.

Dr. Mitchell requested that the paper of Dr. Priolieu, read at the last conversational meeting, should be referred to a committee for publication, if approved. On motion of Dr. Kenderdine, it was voted that Dr. Leidy be appointed a Committee of one, to whom the specimen and communication be referred.

Reports of the Recorder, the Corresponding Secretary and the Treasurer, each giving abstracts of the affairs and transactions of the Section in their several departments during the year, were read and accepted.

Dr. Isaac Norris and Mr. Warner were appointed to examine the Treasurer's account, and, after investigation, reported that it was found to be correct.

The annual elections being next in order, Dr. J. H. McQuillen and Mr. T. W. Starr were requested to act as tellers, and the Department proceeded to elect officers for the ensuing year, as follows:

Director, . . .	S. W. Mitchell, M. D.
Vice-Director, . .	Wm. Pepper, M. D.
Recorder, . . .	Jos. G. Richardson, M. D.
Corresponding Secretary,	Prof. J. H. McQuillen, M. D.
Treasurer, . . .	L. S. Bolles, M. D.
Curator, . . .	W. H. Walmsley.

Publication Committee.

Recorder, *ex off.*, *Chairman*,
F. W. Lewis, M. D.,
W. Pepper, M. D.,
L. S. Bolles, M. D.,
M. W. McAllister,
J. G. Hunt, M. D.

Committee of Curators.

Wm. H. Walmsley, *ex off.*, *Chairman*,
T. W. Starr,
F. W. Lewis, M. D.,
Wm. F. Norris, M. D.,
J. G. Richardson, M. D.

Committee of Auditors.

H. M. Bellows, M. D.,
W. McFadden.
J. W. Queen,

December 19*th*, 1870.

(Conversational Meeting.)

Dr. J. G. Hunt in the Chair.

Seven members present.

Mr. T. W. Starr exhibited a slide containing a specimen of a species of *Chelifer*, a parasite of the common house fly, strongly resembling a scorpion, also one showing scales of the *Platessa plana* or Flounder, mounted in carbolic acid water.

In answer to a question from Dr. McQuillen, Mr. Starr stated that his experience in the use of glycerin jelly had been by no means satisfactory.

Prof. J. H. McQuillen exhibited a remarkable specimen of so-called exostosis at the root of an upper molar tooth from the human subject, the growth being more than an inch in diameter. Dr. McQuillen gave some account of this curious case, and also showed some specimens of teeth with calcified dentine, and under the microscope some thin sections of the same.

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The Second Series of the Proceedings, commencing Jan. 1, 1857, (of which fourteen volumes were completed Dec. 31, 1870,) may be obtained at $39.00, to members, or $3.00 per volume separately; and to the public, $3.75 per volume. These are now published monthly at $3.00 per annum, payable in advance, to members; and to the public, $3.75.

The Society has established a Publication Fund; any person who may contribute the sum of $75, will receive, during life, the Journal, quarto, and the Proceedings, octavo; or separately, the Journal $50, and the Proceedings $25.

BOOKS FOR SALE.

The Academy have a few copies of the following rare works, for sale at the prices affixed.

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Monograph of the Unionidæ of North America, by T. A. Conrad. Complete with 60 colored plates, octavo, 1840, $8.50.

Fossils of the Tertiary Formation of the United States, by T. A. Conrad. Complete, with 49 plates, octavo, 1838, $5.00.

Description of Shells of North America, with 68 colored plates, by Thos. Say, 1830—34, $10.50.

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January, 1871.

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